

Nina Wolfson
Retired Teacher, New Haven Public Schools

Appropriations Committee
February 21, 2013

I am a 78 year old retired Connecticut teacher and a widow and I am strongly opposed to any reduction in the state subsidy of the teachers' retiree healthcare. Since I no longer receive my late husband's Social Security benefit and, as a Connecticut teacher, do not receive Social Security, I am very dependent on the health benefits and the state's contribution to those benefits for my medical expenses.

I suffer from severe lumbar disc disease. I see several surgeons for my spine and have had several operations over many years for this ongoing condition. I have a Neurostimulator implanted in my back to aid in the management of my chronic, intractable pain of my trunk and limbs. This stimulator must be adjusted periodically and closely monitored. My medical expenses for this are ongoing and expensive. In addition, I have a high cholesterol level and am being closely monitored and treated for severe arthritis.

Because of my husband's Social Security benefit I am eligible for Medicare. However, I still have had to pay several thousands of dollars out-of-pocket. I depend greatly on the benefits I earned as a teacher in Connecticut and sincerely hope that the State will honor the commitment it made to its teachers and not eliminate its contribution to the Teachers Retirement Fund.

Thank you very much.